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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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BELLEVUE, Neb.

LARIMER & SAINT MARY,

Their

HISTORY,

LOCATION, DESCRIPTION

And Advantages.

By

C. CHAUCER GOSS.

Bellevue, Nebraska.

Published by John Q. Goss.

1859.

1788291

A CARD.

We, the undersigned, Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Bellevue, having heard the Lectures of Rev. C. C. Goss, upon Bellevue and the surrounding country, do hereby testify to the historic correctness of the information communicated; and believing that it should be preserved for the benefit of posterity, do solicit him to embody the same in such permanent form as shall best accord with his own judgement.

LEAVETT L. BOWEN, Mayor.

HENRY T. CLARKE,

L. B. KINNEY,

CHAS. T. HOLLOWAY,

} Aldermen.

1000000 0.1247 - 10-30-73 Smoky Hill

HISTORY OF BELLEVUE.

Bellevue is situated upon the western shore of the Missouri river, some eight hundred miles northwest of St. Louis, and five miles north of the mouth of the Platte river.

Who the white man was that first set foot upon the western side of the Missouri river at this point, I am not apprised. La Salle took possession of all this region, for the court of France, as early as 1682, but there is no evidence that he ascended the Missouri river. The French Jesuit Missionaries might have been here at an early day, for the purpose of instructing the natives, but they have left us no evidence of it. In 1803, President Jefferson, inspired with the feeling so characteristic of Young America, commissioned Lewis and Clark to explore all this western region. In May, of the following year, they arrived at this place, with a view of holding a council with the native tribes; and, so far as we have any positive evidence, were the first white men that touched at this point.

The following year, 1805, a company of adventurers, with Manuel Lesa, a wealthy Spanish gentleman, as their leader, set out to explore more thoroughly the Missouri river and the surrounding country. Ascending the river in their **batteaux**, amid many hardships, they reached the north side of the Platte river. Here the broad and beautiful valley of said river spreading out before them, so attracted their attention that they determined to remain awhile, in order to more extended observations. Passing from the first bottom to the second, called the plateau, and catching a view for the first time of the unsurpassed beauties that stretched out before him, Captain Lesa exclaimed, "Bellevue!" with an admiration as spontaneous as it was appropriate. This term is a compound of two French words, and signifies a delightful or beautiful view; and from that time to the present, this place has retained a name so expressive of its real character.

As early as 1810, the American Fur Company, consisting of John Jacob Astor, of New York, Pierre Chouteau, of St. Louis, and others, determined upon establishing a Trading Post at the most eligible point west of the Missouri river. After extended observa-

tions, this place was selected as being the best for the object contemplated. Suitable buildings were erected and entrusted with a noted Indian trader, Francis De Roin, who, for several years, managed its affairs. It then passed into the hands of Joseph Robidoux, as agent, who superintended it six years, when his place was taken by John Cabanne. This latter gentleman managed the concern until the year 1824, when it passed into the hands of Gen. Peter A. Sarpy, of St. Louis. Since that time General S. has been known in all this region as a gentleman of indomitable energy, perseverance and integrity. For years he was the only white inhabitant of all this western region — sole monarch, in fact, of Nebraska. He was the only man who could hold in check the infuriated passions of the uncultivated savage; the only one who could speak and interpret the Indian dialect. In dealing with the natives, his strict adherence to the principles of right gave them unbounded confidence in him, as well as commanding influence over them. For years they looked upon him as their Ne-ka-gah-he, or Big Chief. Over thirty years he remained at his post, pursuing the even tenor of his way, when, about a year since, the natives having been removed, the Trading Post was abandoned.

In the year 1823, the government of the United States made choice of this place for the establishment of an Indian Agency. Prior to this time such an agency had existed further north, at a place now known as Fort Calhoun, under the name of the Council Bluffs Indian Agency. It was so named from the fact that here Lewis and Clark held a council with the Indians as early as the 3rd of August, 1804. This place proving inadequate, from a variety of circumstances, for the purposes for which it was established, was abandoned, and Bellevue selected as the best place for the re-establishment of the same. Here it was known, as the reports of that day show, by the name of the Council Bluffs Indian Agency, at Bellevue. Three blacksmith shops were soon erected in connection with this Agency, for the benefit of the Omahas, Otoes and Pawnees, which tribes, together with the Potawottamies, were included within the limits of this Agency. The residence of the Agent, as well as the blacksmith shops, were built upon the bottom, adjacent to the Trading Post, near the present steamboat landing. No building had as yet been erected upon the plateau above. At this Trading Post and Agency were concentrated the chief business of all this part of the Territory. Traders, hundreds of miles north, brought their furs, peltry and other articles of merchandise in Mackinaw boats to this place to dispose of them to the St. Louis traders. Here the Indians came to make their purchases and sit in council with the government Agents upon matters pertaining to their interest.

In the year 1846, long after the temporal wants of the natives had been provided for, a religious interest was here inaugurated. At

a meeting of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, held in the city of New York, the subject was considered, and resulted in a resolution to establish a Mission somewhere among the native tribes in this region. Rev. Edward McKinney having been selected by the Board as Superintendent of the same, arrived, with his family, in the fall of the same year. After somewhat extended observations, he selected this point as most practicable for the location of the same and erected a log house upon the plateau, in which he re-ided. The following spring the senior Secretary of the Board, Walter Lowrie, Esq., visited this region, in order to the permanent establishment of the Mission and the erection of suitable buildings in which to carry on its operations. His judgement coincided with that of Mr. McKinney, that this was the place, best adapted, to carry on their important enterprise. The spot where the building should be located, was now to be decided. The claims of the bottom were urged by some, but the Missionaries decided upon the plateau above, the spot where the house now stands. Although they were considered unwise at the time, yet the present shows the wisdom of their choice. This house was begun in the year 1847, and finished in 1848 — a building well arranged for the object for which it was erected. In it were educated children of Omahas, Ottoes and Pawnees, of both sexes, besides a few half-breeds and Punks. D. E. Reed, sent out by the Board as Superintendent of the School, arrived in the fall of the year 1847, and, together with the Missionary and his family, constituted the Mission force at this place. All the interest of the Mission gathered about this house, while that of the Trading Post and Agency centered at the bottom.

Previous to this time a Mission School had been established among the Pawnee Indians under the direction of the American Board of Foreign Missions. Its location was some distance up the Platte Valley, on Council creek. Mr. Dunbar was the Missionary, and Mr. Allis the Superintendent of the Mission School. On account of the constant annoyances of the hostile Sioux, these Missionaries were unable to prosecute their work successfully. Many a time these prowling sons of the forest have directed their deadly weapons at these self-sacrificing ones. But a kind Providence guarded them from these weapons of death, and permitted them, for a time, to sow the good seed among that neglected tribe. About this time, 1847, the attacks became so violent, that the Missionaries and the tribe with whom they labored were compelled to flee. Mr. Ellis came to Bellevue, the seat of the Omaha Mission, and for several years resided here, instructing the children of the Pawnees of both sexes. The labors of Mr. E., under such circumstances, for the benefit of this tribe, show his devotion to the cause of his Master.

It was about this time, 1847, that the Mormons at Nauvoo, having been regarded as outlaws, began to direct their attention

toward the setting sun. This region soon became known as the place where they crossed the Missouri river, en route for the Salt Lake Valley. The first company that reached Salt Lake, under Brigham Young as their leader, crossed the Missouri river between Bellevue and St. Mary. The ferry was then owned and kept by Gen. Peter A. Sarpy. At that time, while the General was quietly attending to his business at the Trading Post, a letter was presented him by a young Indian. This was a strange sight in this region at this time, and awakened in the General's mind a curiosity of no ordinary character. The contents showed it to be from Brigham Young, encamping some mile or so distant, with about 5000 Mormons, asking advice and protection from the native tribes. The whole thinking machinery of the General was thrown into activity. With no means of protection or resistance, with such a horde of outlaws about him, what course of action shall he pursue? While doubting and reflecting, another letter was handed him, from the same source, portraying the abject condition of the troops, the destitution of the women and children, and beseeching him to come to their aid. Every noble impulse of the pioneer's heart now stirred within him; all his former apprehensions fled in a moment. Ordering his canoe, he crossed the river, had an interview with Brigham, scanned the motley crowd, saw their degraded, suffering condition, and was conquered. The doors of his trading house were thrown open; food and other articles necessary for their comfort were freely distributed. These troops remained at this place until the coming spring, during which time the General secured permission from the U. S. Government for them to take up their abode in the Salt Lake Valley. He negotiated a treaty with the Indians for them; secured them protection on the way; and actually accompanied them 200 miles of their journey. Thus were the whole Mormon troops indebted to this generous trader for life, safety and comfort. This is only one of such acts of benevolence, that deserve to be handed down to posterity.

The first marriage between what might be considered white people, that occurred at this place, was in connection with the Mormons. In 1849, Lewis Saunsaasee, a half-breed and interpreter for the Omahas, fell in love with what he supposed to be a Mormon girl, but which afterward proved to be a Mormon woman — a boy several years of age making his appearance. For reasons best known to himself, Rev. Mr. McKinney refused to unite them. Orson Hyde, then Elder of the Mormon church at Kainesville, failed, in accordance with his promise, to be present. The loving couple determined upon a public ratification of their private conclusions, crossed the river, and employed a certain quasi Mormon Bishop, by the name of Smith, to tie a knot that the hand of time has since untied. Lewis is now at the Blackbird Hills, in this Territory, while Rebecca is an inmate of Brigham's harem at Utah.

Bellevue is also noted as being the old Council Bluffs of 1848.

Some time before this, the gold mines of California had been discovered and the great overland emigration commenced. From St. Mary the eager crowds of gold-seekers crossed the river to Bellevue, as the Mormons had previously done. Here they received their outfit, and started, by the way of Salt Lake, for the golden regions of the far-off Pacific. At that time large numbers of people, with their wagons and tents, encamped on both sides of the river. Thousands of letters were written by these emigrants to their friends in the East from this point. These letters were all dated Council Bluffs, from the fact that here was the Council Bluffs Indian Agency. So great was this letter business, that, in the fall of the year 1849, Government established at this place the "Nebraska Post Office." In 1851, the name was changed to the "Council Bluffs Post Office," so as to correspond with the name of the Agency. The Commissioners of Indian Affairs, as their reports show, all dated their reports Council Bluffs, sometimes Council Bluffs Indian Agency at Bellevue. The other side of the river was known as Council Bluffs Sub-Agency. Here, then, is the Council Bluffs of 1847-8, a name familiar to every American reader, from one end of the nation to the other. This name, being thus extensively known, began to rouse the jealousy of our neighbors just above in Iowa, and they set themselves to work, with a skull-duggery that knows no tire, to rob us of our good name. In the winter of 1851-2, they instigated the Legislature of that State to baptize Mormon Hollow, known as Kainesville, with the historic name of Council Bluffs. Not satisfied with giving their illegitimate child the prestige of a good name, of course they sought an appropriate dress with which to clothe it; so, in the spring of 1853, the name of Council Bluffs Post Office was taken by the Council Bluffs of Mormon Hollow, and the former place received in lieu thereof the name of Traders' Point Post Office. How well our neighbors will succeed with a child and dress thus obtained, time alone can determine.

As early as 1852, Major Barrow, Col. Stephen Decatur, and some others, conceived the idea of forming themselves into a company, for the purpose of claiming and laying out a town, somewhere in this region. About this time, many letters appeared in the journals of the East and South, calling attention to this point, supposed to be from the pens of these gentlemen. It is claimed by some, that the large log house, known as the old McKinney house, was erected with an eye upon a town project. This house was built in 1852, by Mr. McKinney, for his own use and the comfort of his family, the Mission house having become too strait for the increasing business of the Mission. Soon after this, in consequence of ill health, he resigned his connection with the Mission. In the spring of the following year, Rev. William Hamilton, with his family, arrived at this place, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. McKinney. Mr. Hamilton remained at his post, laboring faithfully until the removal of the Omaha tribe to

the Blackbird Hills. Since that time, he has continued his residence among us as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bellevue.

Another step, looking toward a town project, was the removal of the blacksmith shops and Indian Agency from the bottom to the plateau above, to the place they now occupy. This was in the year 1853, under the superintendence of Major Barrow. Placed, as these buildings were, in a row, they evidently were intended to be on one of the streets of the town. Doubtless they would have been placed nearer the Mission house, had not the whole of that part of the plateau been claimed by the Missionary Board. It was considered almost sacrilegious, by many, to remove these buildings from the place they had so long occupied. But Young America has no veneration for ancient landmarks. In his march of improvement, he tramples them all in the dust, and piles up monuments to perpetuate his own fame.

Early the following year, February 9th, 1854, the organization of a town company, that had so long been contemplated, was now completed. The article of agreement made and entered into upon that date was signed by the following gentlemen: Peter A. Sarpy, Stephen Decatur, Hiram Bennet, Isaiah H. Bennet, George Hepner, William R. English, James M. Gateswood, George T. Turner, P. J. McMahon, A. W. Hollister and A. C. Ford. These gentlemen were the original proprietors of the town, known as the "old town company." Soon, however, much of the land claimed by them passed into other hands. Col. Gillmore, Gen. Bowen, and others, purchased quite extensively. Most of the above members of the town company were, or had been, connected with the Trading Post or Government Agency.

Early this spring many settlers were added to our numbers. In March, Hon. C. T. Holloway, our present worthy Mayor, R. C. Anderson and J. Bailey crossed the river together, and endured the privations incident to that early day. L. B. Kinney arrived with a stock of goods at St. Mary, where he remained until the extinguishment of the Indian title on this side of the river, when he crossed, and here opened the first store upon the town plat.

On the 27th of May an act was approved, providing a territorial organization for the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas. By this act, Nebraska was brought within the pale of Uncle Sam's recognized treasures; and this place, so long known, was considered of more importance than ever.

June 21st, a treaty was ratified, by which all the lands of this region passed from the Omaha tribe into the hands of Congress. This added still more to the future prosperity of all this region.

The morning of the memorable Fourth of July now dawned upon us. The same spirit of patriotism that animated our revolutionary fathers moved the pioneers of this place to celebrate the day in

a becoming manner. A beautiful arbor having been erected on Hancock street, near Sarpy avenue, the star-spangled banner was hoisted, at high twelve, and a salute fired for each State in the Union, besides one for this virgin Territory. D. E. Reed was chosen chairman. Among the numerous toasts, L. B. Kinney presented the following:

"Bellevue — The Belle of the West; the centre of our Union."

"Nebraska — the future key-stone of the federal arch." — By Col. Decatur.

On the 15th day of this month, the first paper published in the Territory was issued by D. E. Reed, editor and proprietor. It was called the "Nebraska Palladium." It was printed at Saint Mary until the middle of November of this year, when the press was brought across the river to Bellevue, and placed in the south wing on the old McKinney house. Here, on the 15th day of November, in presence of most of the government officers and their fair ones, Dr. E. N. Upjohn, who had arrived the month previous, "struck off" the first newspaper west of the Missouri river. The first column of this paper, and the first in the Territory, was put in type by Thomas Morton, now of Nebraska City. This journal was independent in politics, fearless in its advocacy of the rights of humanity, and evinced as much energy and ability as any that have succeeded it in the Territory. It reached a subscription of 500, and was discontinued in April, 1855.

In the month of October, the government officers for the Territory, appointed by President Pierce, arrived at this place. Francis Burt, Governor, came up the river and landed here on the 8th. T. B. Cuming, Secretary, came across from Iowa about the same time. Fenner Ferguson, Chief Justice, landed on the 11th, and was received with a grand salute. His associates and the other officers came out soon after. The Indian Agency, a small house with two porches, was their head quarters. Here most of these functionaries ate their first meal and slept their first sleep. Governor Burt, on the morning of the 18th, ten days after his arrival, departed to the land of spirits. The change of climate; the long, wearisome journey; the continued harrassing of unfeeling, selfish politicians, added to his already feeble health, placed a period at the terminus of his existence. His death occurred at the Mission house, and was the first event of the kind after the organization of the Territory.

About the middle of October, the Hon. S. A. Strickland, F. Calkins, W. W. Wiley, and some others, were added to our numbers. No buildings having as yet been erected, the old government buildings, the Mission house and the Trading Post, were all well filled. Each man had his own plank, upon which he laid him down to rest.

On the 30th of November, in accordance with the recommenda-

tion of the Acting Governor, thanksgiving exercises were held at the Mission house. The services were conducted by the Missionary, Rev. William Hamilton. This was the first of such exercises in the Territory.

December 12th, an election was held to make choice of Representatives to a Territorial Legislature. Ninety-three votes were polled at this place; and it is worthy of remark, that no intoxicating liquors were used during the day. The gentlemen elected to this first Legislature, from this place, were, S. A. Strickland, C. T. Holloway, S. Decatur, W. A. Hollister, and Philander Cook.

January 16th, 1855, the first Territorial Legislature convened. The above named representatives were refused admittance, on account of the influence of the Acting Governor, T. B. Cuming, because we had failed to elect men favorable to his known wishes. During this session an act was passed incorporating this place as "The City of Bellevue." In the latter part of this month, D. E. Reed received the appointment of Post Master for our new city; and the following month Mrs. Reed taught here the first school for whites in the Territory.

In March, the Nebraska Lodge, No. 1, of Free and Accepted Masons, was instituted. This was the first Lodge of the kind west of the Missouri river.

The spring opened, and activity and enterprise were everywhere manifest. The sun of prosperity shown brightly; and future reward nerved the settlers to the performance of present duties, amid so many privations and hardships. Many valuable and energetic citizens were now added to our numbers. Among them were C. D. Keller, S. D. Bangs, Col. R. Lovejoy, James Gow, H. T. Clark, A. M. Clark, M. S. Martyn, C. E. Smith, J. A. Thompson, John Finney, Watson Brothers, and J. S. Allan. The latter gentleman came out as Financial Agent of the Mission. The hum of the artisan now began to be heard in our midst. Mr. Strickland began the erection of the large hotel, known as the Benton House. Dr. Upjohn's house, Rev. W. Hamilton's, Col. Lovejoy's, L. B. Kinney's store, and some other buildings, started into existence. Meanwhile the cultivation of the soil was not neglected. Several breaking teams in and about the city began to turn over the soil, and the crops soon gave evidence of abundant harvest. It should not be forgotten, that the settlers of that early day suffered much from Indian depredations. Crops, cattle, and even their houses had to be closely watched; and often they were deprived of their little all by their prowling red-face brothers.

During this summer our population somewhat increased, as in the fall we polled 140 votes, an increase of 47 over the fall previous. At this election Gen. L. L. Bowen was chosen Councilman from this part of Douglas county. His influence in that body, the follow-

ing spring, secured a separate election district, comprising the territory now embraced within the limits of Sarpy county.

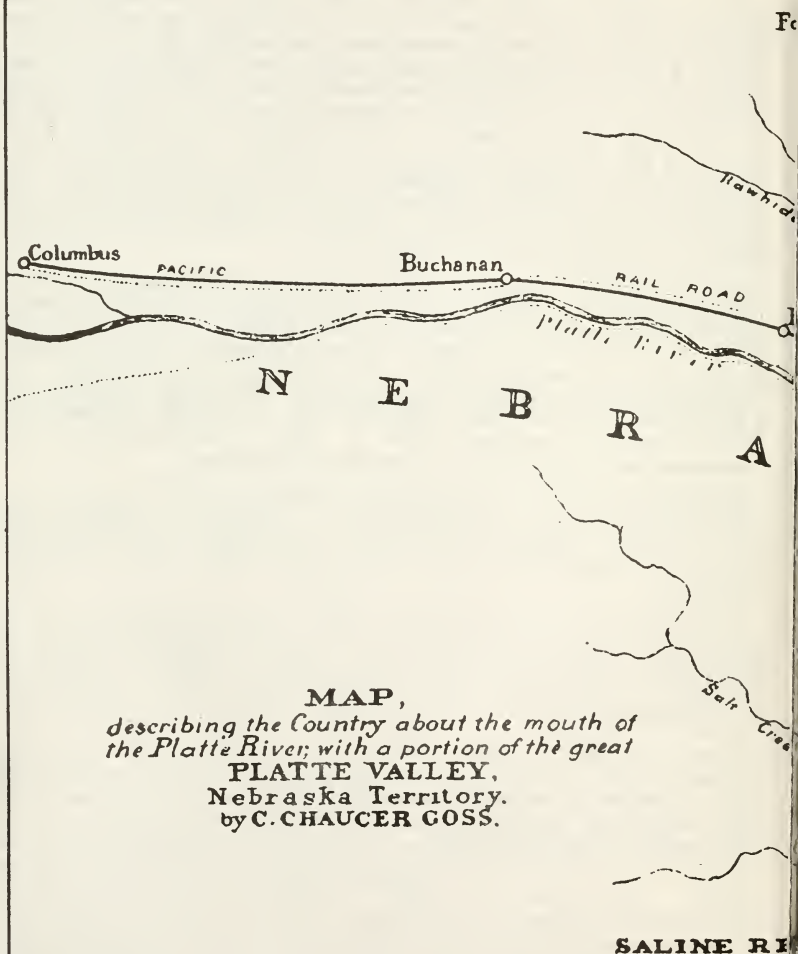
The following year, in January, 1856, the Legislature again convened. Among its first acts was one incorporating the Mission Reserve, within the limits of the city of Bellevue. Said Reserve was donated to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, by the Chiefs of the Omaha tribe. Congress acquiesced in the donation, and granted a patent directly to the Board. The proximity of this tract of land to the old city limits, and the certainty that, sooner or later, the city must be built upon it, rendered it necessary that the interests of the two companies should be united. This was effected this spring, in a manner satisfactory to both parties. From this time we date the real growth of Bellevue, as not over a dozen houses had been completed up to this time. During this session the Fontenelle Bank of Bellevue was also incorporated.

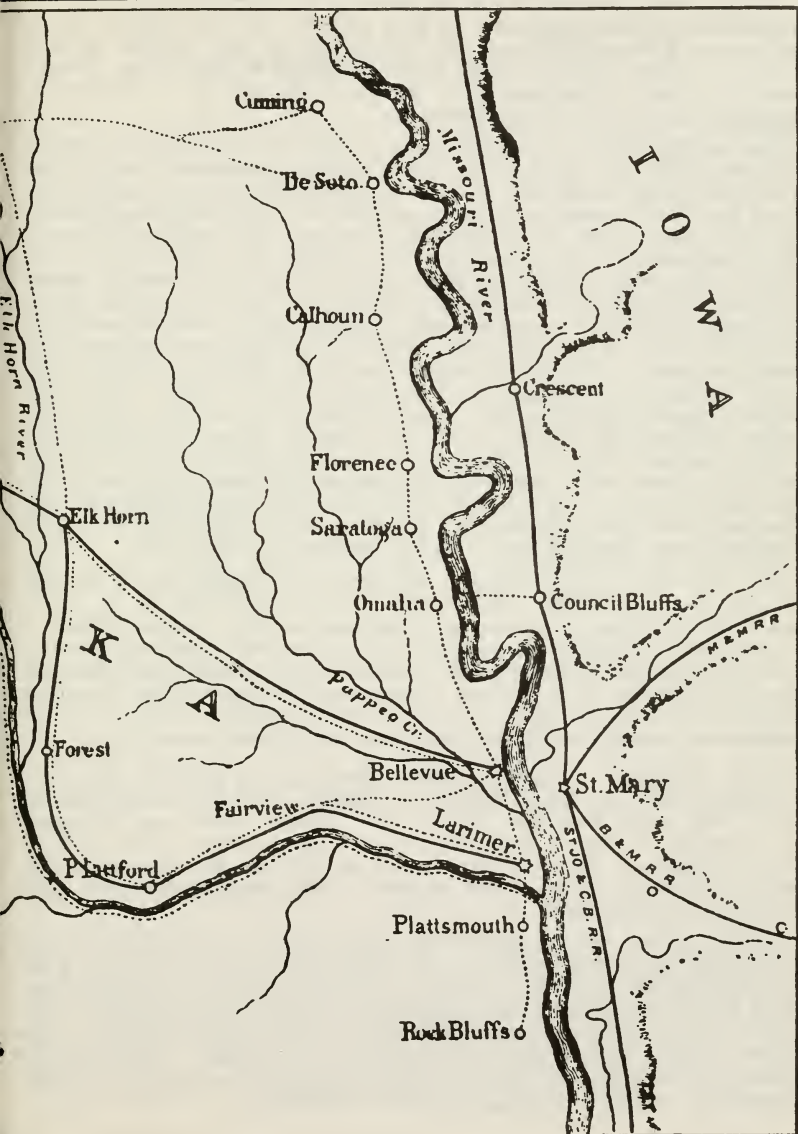
This spring and summer everything looked prosperous and inviting. Property in and around the city increased greatly in value. Building and cultivating were the order of the day. Hon. W. H. Cook, W. R. Smith, and many other of our prominent citizens, settled among us. The Benton House was completed and opened by Geo. Jennings. The large Mission House, which had been converted into a first class hotel the year previous, was this spring opened by its present worthy proprietor, James T. Allan. Both of these hotels were acknowledged to be the best in the Territory.

In May, of this year, 1856, our city government was put in operation, by the election of the following gentlemen as officers; Col. Reuben Lovejoy, Mayor; J. T. Allan, M. D. Rowles and A. H. Burch, Alderman. These were the first principal officers of our city government.

October 23rd the first number of the Bellevue Gazette made its appearance. The establishment was first a company affair, but the number of the same has been much reduced. Its continued existence is mainly due to the untiring energy and support of Hon. S. A. Strickland.

November, 1856, another election was held; and Messrs. L. L. Bowen and J. S. Allan were elected to the Council from this precinct. Messrs. Strickland, Holloway, Finney and Dyson were the Representatives. In the next Legislature, in January, 1857, through the united and untiring efforts of this delegation, the south part of Douglas county was erected into what is now known as Sarpy county. It received its name in honor of that distinguished pioneer, General Peter A. Sarpy, who had spent thirty years of his life upon the soil, and had dearly earned the compliment that was so cheerfully and unanimously awarded. Messrs. Bowen, Strickland and Holloway were appointed the Commissioners by the





Legislature to locate the seat of said county. On the 26th of May, the county government was put in motion by the election of the following officers: W. H. Cook, County Judge; W. W. Wiley, Treasurer; C. D. Keller, Register; S. D. Bangs, Clerk, and H. A. Longsdorf, Superintendent of Common Schools.

This spring, 1857, our population greatly increased, as will be seen from the fact that, at the election just referred to, we polled 500 votes. The frequent steamboat arrivals poured in emigration upon us. Every nook and corner of the two hotels were well filled, as well also as private residences. Property changed hands rapidly, and advanced in value at almost every sale. Lots which two years before were bought at \$25, now sold for \$100. Several large and substantial brick buildings were also erected. The new Bank building would be an ornament to many of the older towns of the East. Two brick-yards were also put in operation in the city. These, together with four sawmills, could not supply building material as fast as demanded. Our educational interests have not been neglected. A large and tasteful school house has been completed, in which is taught a first class school. Besides this, we have private schools; an institution of a higher grade is also contemplated. A neat and substantial Church edifice has been erected by the Presbyterians, and another commenced by the Methodists. The Congregationalists contemplate building soon. Rev. Wm. Hamilton was the first resident Pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

On the 6th day of August, the Bellevue Lodge, No. 4, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted. W. H. Cook and W. W. Harvy were its principal officers. Soon after, a Young Men's Library Association was organized, and many valuable works have already been obtained as the nucleus of a library. An Agricultural Society has also been formed, which promises much advantage to the citizens, both of the city and county. Large rooms are soon to be fitted up for the use of this society.

This summer a valuable steam ferry was put upon the river at this point, by Col. Thomas H. Benton, Jr., of Council Bluffs. The boat sunk, however, during the winter, either as the result of accident, or some unknown cause. Other boats were immediately obtained, so that the travel might not be diverted. Mr. Benton deserves much credit for the interest manifested amid such adverse circumstances.

Thus we see that much of the early history of the Territory is connected with this region. The first white settlement was here. The first celebration of our Nation's birth-day, west of the Missouri, was here. The first newspaper in the Territory was printed here. Here was the landing place of most of our territorial officers. The first Masonic Lodge instituted on this soil was here. This was the first town site pre-empted; and the first patent issued by Congress, and duly recorded, was for the city of Bellevue.

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DESCRIPTION OF BELLEVUE.

No one at all acquainted with this region will accuse us of presumption, when we claim for it the advantage of being the most beautiful of any upon the Missouri river. Like Jerusalem of old, it is, indeed, beautiful for situation. But passing by the surrounding country for a time, let us take a view of the spot itself upon which the city is situated. Casting our eyes around us, we discover an elevated plateau, of triangular form, about five square miles in extent, as level and beautiful as the hand of Nature could make it. Upon the eastern portion of this plateau, overlooking the Missouri river, the city of Bellevue is situated, embracing within its present topographical limits some two square miles. From this spot, with our eyes toward the rising sun, we look down upon the turbid waters of said river, which forms our eastern boundary. From this point we have a view of the river southward, and the valley of the same, for a distance of nearly fifty miles. Steamboats, with the black smoke curling from their chimney tops, may be seen gliding upon its waters hours before they reach our wharf. About two miles south, the Pappeo creek opens its mouth into the Missouri river. Between this plateau and the creek we have a high alluvial prairie bottom, gradually sloping, and rich and fertile in the extreme. Along this creek there is an abundance of timber, which is of great value in these regions.

Extending our gaze westward, we trace the plateau about two miles, covered with a smooth coat of green, where it is terminated by the Pappeo creek. This creek, which is a clear running stream, large enough for milling purposes, bounds this plateau upon the west as well as the southwest. Beyond this creek the valley rises gradually into a beautiful outspread prairie, of gentle waves and cones, sudded with groves of various sizes, as delightful as they are useful. This region is scarcely surpassed by the park scenery of England. Here the admirer of nature may feast to his heart's content.

Northward, the plateau rises gradually, and, receding, swells into gentle eminences, the summit of which is our northern boundary. From the center of the plateau to the summit, the rise is so gradual that it is unequalled for residences in the world. Ida Hill, the residence of T. B. Lemon, Esq., at this point, is unsurpassed. It is impossible to exaggerate respecting these swells or eminences. They surpass the skill of the most proficient artist. From them we overlook the whole country east, west and south, while the summit of the same protects the city from the bleak winds of the north. From the top of the same, especially from that point known as Elk Hill, the view in every direction is almost unlimited. North-east,

~~some~~ eight miles distant, situated directly at the base of the bluffs, stands the town of Council Bluffs. An occasional residence upon the hill side, with the town neatly arranged under bluffs that tower some two hundred feet above them, serves to invest the back round with romantic scenery such as nature only can impart. For miles down the river, the winding of this broad stream among the numerous islands that dot its surface, is seen at intervals until lost in the distant horizon. Said a writer in the New York **Herald**, a year or two since, "Bellevue is situated on an elevated plateau of land stretching away to the south, in a plain of unsurpassed beauty. The ground rises gently northward and swells into hills of fine proportions. Take it all in all, it is one of the most magnificent situations that the God of nature has granted to this beautiful Territory." Col. Gillmore, writing to Col. Lovejoy, in 1854, says: "I have purchased a share in a town site, the most valuable of any upon the Missouri river. It is in fact the most beautiful spot that I ever beheld." Manuel Lesa very appropriately named the spot when he called it **Bellevue**.

LARIMER.

This town is located directly at the junction of the Platte and Missouri rivers, upon the north side of the former river, and four miles south of the city of Bellevue. It was originally selected by the Agent of the American Fur Company, as the site for its operations.

As soon, however, as this Territory was opened up to civilization, in 1854, this point was eagerly sought by the far-sighted and enterprising pioneer. So important was it considered, that there was frequently much strife among the squatters as to who should possess it; and often the weaker among them were dispossessed by those who were more powerful. Among the earliest settlers claiming and maintaining their right to the land, we may mention the names of Daniel Turner and G. W. Tozier. In 1854, Philander Cook, John Enock and John Burch came in and engaged in the laudable business of cultivating the soil.

In February, 1855, a town project was entered into, very near the town under consideration. Col. B. P. Rankin, Gen. W. Larimer, Col. R. Hogoboom and Gov. T. B. Cuming were the proprietors of the same. This point was then known as La Platte, situated directly upon the Missouri river. The first building erected was a double log house, called the Buckhorn Tavern, owned and kept by Col. Rankin. Soon a steam saw mill was finished, at an expense of \$7,000. About this time Mr. Turner sold his interest to Rev. John Hughes, who erected the large log house now standing upon the town site of Larimer.

The following spring, 1856, the La Platte town project having been abandoned, Col. Hogoboom purchased all the interest of Mr. Tozier, and Gen. Larimer that of Mr. Hughes, and a new town enterprise was immediately commenced. The residence of Col. R. Hogoboom was the first building erected after the town was platted. Soon a large hotel was erected by Col. R., which was opened and kept by Mr. Shannon. A store, warehouse, and other buildings, were soon completed; all showing the energy and enterprise of the town projectors.

About this time another town was commenced in close proximity

with Larimer, called Platono, by Daniel Grant, Esq., a prominent and energetic citizen of Omaha. This town is situated directly east of Larimer, between it and the Missouri river, occupying a part of site once known as La Platte. To see two towns spring up in close proximity, and flourish for a time, under different names, is no unusual occurrence in this western region. Many of the large cities commenced in this way; but by a legislative act they have become incorporated under one general name. Such will be the case in reference to the adjoining towns of Larimer and Platono. Their interests are one and identical, and the proprietors of each act in perfect harmony. Mr. Grant has erected a spacious hotel that would do credit to any of the towns of the East; besides other buildings of a superior quality.

These two towns, which are one in interest and soon will be in name, are located upon an extensive and beautiful plateau, directly at the junction of the Platte and Missouri rivers. This plateau is considerably elevated above the Missouri river, sloping gradually towards it, and admirably situated for a large business metropolis. The plateau is bounded on the east and south by these two rivers; on the north, by the Pappeo creek; and on the west, by a gradually sloping prairie, which rises to a level with the upland lying west of the plateau. This plateau is about two square miles in extent, and embraces as beautiful a tract of land, lying toward the rising sun, as can be found in the world. At no distant day it will doubtless be dotted with the mansions of a large, active business population.

Standing upon one of the prominences at the west side of the town, called Observatory Point, the resting-place of the natives of other days, the eye gazes upon pristine beauty, defaced here and there by the hand of improvement. The rich scenery here presented could scarcely be excelled by the rich views of Italy. About two miles north-east stands the village of Saint Mary, with its neat white buildings, and industrious inhabitants; while directly east, and clearly visible, the vigorous young Pacific City has grown up as if by magic.

The situation of Larimer upon the Territorial highway, especially at the point where it crosses the Platte river, is considered of great advantage. On this river Col. Hogoboom has put in operation a ferry, at great expense, which is kept running from sunrise to sunset. If the river is ever bridged, which is not at all improbable, it will be at this point.

On the south-west side of the town, near the Platte river, are found extensive quarries of stone, of superior quality for building purposes. A blue limestone is found in the bluffs along the Platte river; especially is this the case at Fairview, ten miles west of this place. Sandstone of the first quality may be obtained in blocks of almost any dimensions.

Cedar island, between this place and Fairview, is noted for its good cedar timber.

Coal, too, of sufficient quantities, have been found, to warrant the assertion that it abounds in all this region. Excavations have already been made at Bellevue and Fairview, and a semi-bituminous or cannel coal found, in seams of various dimensions. As soon as a demand is created, this coal will be of much importance to this region.

If this place had no other advantage, the rich agricultural country around it must give it great prominence. The enterprising farmers adjoining the town, Messrs. Rankin, Mahon and Cook, are already reaping the rich rewards of toil, and showing themselves worthy of their vocation.

SAINT MARY.

The town of St. Mary is situated upon the eastern shore of the Missouri river, in the state of Iowa, nearly midway between Larimer and Bellevue. The great highway upon the Missouri river, from St. Joseph to Sioux City, passes through this place; and stages intersect it from the north, south, east and west.

The history of this town dates back to the year 1852. During this year, extensive floods prevailed in all this western region. The valley of the Missouri was nearly inundated. At Traders' Point, upon its eastern shore, Gen. Sarpy was "completely drowned out"—an occurrence which had never happened before during the thirty years of his residence there. So high was the water that thousands of emigrants, *en route* for the gold regions of the Pacific, found it impossible to cross the river. At this juncture Gen. Sarpy, the pioneer of all this region, went out in search of a place where these numerous and every day increasing emigrants could cross the river, and speed their way to their far-off western destination. Southward from his Trading Post, Gen. Sarpy reached a green spot, high and dry, the spot now known as the town of St. Mary. To this place he removed his steam ferry, the first in all this western region. Runners were dispatched by him in all directions, and soon this place was known by western emigrants as the only dry crossing on the Missouri, from St. Joseph to Sergeant's Bluffs. So great was the ferry business at this time, that Gen. Sarpy received, during one season, \$5,000 for crossing emigrants.

Daniel Heriford, a gentleman well and favorably known in this region, purchased this site of Congress, and immediately sold it to Gen. Sarpy, who surveyed and platted it as a town site. The streets are all laid out due east and west, and north and south; each street is 66 feet wide; the lots 66 feet front by 132 feet deep. In the spring of 1853, a large hotel was erected, called the Iowa House, which has continued to do a flourishing business. Additions also were soon made to the original town plat, by several prominent individuals. Among these were Messrs. Myres, Engles, Boyes, Kinney and Green. These additions were so platted as to harmonize with the original plat. A shingle wind-mill was put up by Mr. S. Barnes, and a grist wind-mill by Mr. Myres. Such

public buildings went on increasing until five saw mills, two grist mills, two hotels, and one church edifice, beside stores and private residences, dotted the town site. In 1854, the Nebraska Palladium, a weekly journal, was commenced by D. E. Reed, at this place. This was the first newspaper published upon the Missouri river.

Through this valley the Missouri river—often called the **Big Muddy**—winds its serpentine course, through and among numerous islands, now hugging the bluffs on one side, and now on the other, and often flowing directly in the center of the valley. In this region the valley is some three miles wide, the river being nearly in the center of the same, and St. Mary is situated directly upon the east bank of the river. Situated as St. Mary is, in the center of this valley, it presents a very beautiful appearance when viewed from Bellevue, which is situated nearly opposite, upon the edge of the bluffs.

Concerning these bluffs to which I have already alluded, and which some have called the work of unknown generations of men, Col. Parker, speaking of them in this region, says: "I found them here in all varieties of forms and magnitudes, and were hundreds in number, and perhaps I may say thousands. Some of these were conical, some elliptical, some square, and some a parallelogram. One group of these attracted my attention more than others; and if they were isolated, who would not say that they were artificial? If these are not the work of the art of departed nations, whose history has survived the lapse of ages, their history is shrouded in darkness."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF BELLEVUE.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW.

Fenner Ferguson, Augustus Hall, Leavett L. Bowen, Silas A. Strickland, Thomas B. Lemon, Charles T. Holloway, W. H. Smith, C. C. Norwood.

GENERAL LAND AND BUSINESS AGENTS.

C. T. Holloway, T. B. Lemon, C. D. Keller, S. D. Bangs, F. Davenport, W. H. Cook, W. H. Smith, W. W. Harvey, J. E. Pray.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

E. N. Upjohn, Thomas J. Boykin, A. Longsdorf, John Steinberger.

HOTELS.

Bellevue House, J. T. Allan; Robinson House, W. Robinson; Young America, C. Johnson.
Larimer Hotel, at Larimer.
Platona House, Platona.
Iowa House, St. Mary.

L. B. KINNEY & CO.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Glass, &c.

CLARK & BROTHER,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Provisions; Receiving, Forwarding and Commission Merchants, and General Steamboat Agents.

BARTELS & METZ,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Groceries, Liquors, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Dry Goods, &c.

JOHN A. NYE & CO.,

Dealers in Hardware, Cutlery, Stoves, Agricultural Implements, and Manufacturers of all kinds of Tin, Sheet Iron and Copper Ware.

SEATON & ROWLES,

Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hardware, &c.

J. P. HORN & CO.,

Dealers in Wines, Provisions of all kinds, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, &c.

WM. FORD,

Boots and Shoes of all kinds Manufactured and kept constantly on hand.

A. WRIGHT,

Boots and Shoes Manufactured according to Eastern Fashions.

STEPHEN H. WATTLES,

Livery Stable—Horses and Carriages kept constantly on hand. Horses bought, sold, and stabled.

WM. ROBINSON,

Builder, in all its branches.

W. W. HARVY,

County Surveyor. Lands Surveyed, Towns Platted, &c.

W. HILLIARD,

House Carpenter and Joiner.

H. M. EBY,

Surveyor, Conveyancer and Engineer.

JOHN M. EBY,

Dealer in all kinds of Lumber, Shingles, Doors, Sash, &c.

PETER LANE,

Blacksmithing and Shoeing, in Eastern style. Carriages ironed, Sleighs shod, &c.

J. J. KAMM,

House, Sign and Ornamental Painter, Grainer and Paper Hanger.

J. Q. GOSS,

Agent of the American Sunday School Union.

P. E. SHANNON,

General Forwarding and Commission Merchant and Steamboat Agent, St. Mary's Landing, Iowa.

BOYES & CO.,

Home Mills—Flour, Corn, Meal, &c., kept constantly on hand. Grain bought, sold and exchanged, St. Mary, Iowa.

BELLEVUE CITY OFFICERS.

Mayor, Charles T. Holloway; Aldermen, John A. Nye, W. H. Smith, W. H. Longsdorf; Recorder, S. D. Bangs; Treasurer, C. D. Keller.

SARPY COUNTY OFFICERS.

County Judge, W. H. Cook; County Register, C. D. Keller; County Clerk, S. D. Bangs; County Treasurer, W. Wiley; County Surveyor, W. W. Harvey; Sheriff, A. W. Trumbull.

All the above officers reside at Bellevue.

TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.

Governor, Samuel W. Black, Omaha; Secretary, J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City; Chief Justice, Augustus Hall, Bellevue; Associate Justices, E. Wakely, De Soto, J. T. Miller, Nebraska City; Attorney General, L. L. Bowen, Bellevue; U. S. Marshal, W. A. West, Nebraska City; Delegate to Congress, F. Ferguson, Bellevue.

OFFICERS OF THE VARIOUS TERRITORIAL LAND OFFICES.**DACOTAH LAND OFFICE.**

Receiver, Geo. B. Graff; Register, J. H. N. Patrick.

OMAHA LAND OFFICE.

Receiver, P. F. Wilson; Register, John A. Parker, Jr.

NEBRASKA CITY LAND OFFICE.

Receiver, E. A. Des Londe; Register, A. Hopkins.

BROWNSVILLE LAND OFFICE.

Receiver, C. B. Smith; Register, J. B. Nixon.

Surveyor General, Ward B. Burnett, Nebraska City.

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